

ADVOCACY REPORT



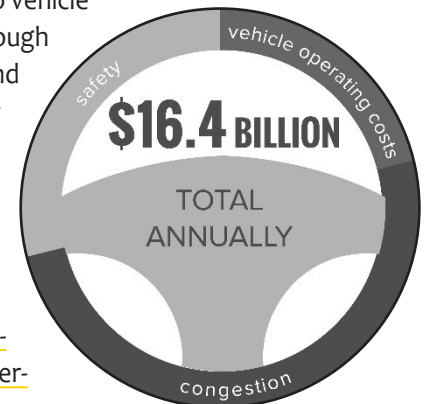
ILLINOIS CHAMBER

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

ILLINOIS DRIVERS LOSE \$16.4 BILLION ANNUALLY



On March 28, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Foundation partnered with TRIP to release its Transportation by the Numbers report. As a Foundation project, the report was aimed to inform not to advocate, but the results are concerning. Illinois motorists annually lose \$16.4 billion due to vehicle operating costs (VOC) from rough roads, congested roads, and roads that lack some safety features. In some parts of the state, this cost is nearly \$2,500 per driver.



The negative effects are statewide. [View the whole report here](#) and [full media coverage here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois Chamber you may click [here](#) to contact Jeanette Anderson

APRIL 2018 | **ADVOCACY REPORT**

ILCHAMBER.ORG

CAPITAL CITY OFFICE
215 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701
217-522-5512

CHICAGO OFFICE
300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60606
312-983-7100



“

The Illinois Chamber hosted its first ever women's conference to reiterate that strong women make a strong Illinois.

”



ILLINOIS WOMEN ARE SECOND TO NO ONE

On March 27th, the Illinois Chamber hosted its first ever women's conference to reiterate that strong women make a strong Illinois. The event keynote speaker President and CEO of The Flagsource Janice Christiansen highlighted her challenges and successes as a CEO. Other panels captured media and media relations, emerging leaders in nontraditional fields, and leadership in communications.

You can find the [full list of speakers/panelists from the event here](#).





“

Approximately 60 percent of the soybeans grown in the states are exported – more than 16 million metric tons- to most of those countries.

”



AGRICULTURE MEETS INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The relationship between Illinois soybean growers and the Asia-Pacific Region is a valuable one. Approximately 60 percent of the soybeans grown in the states are exported – more than 16 million metric tons- to most of those countries. On March 22nd the International Business Council in collaboration with our member organization, The Illinois Soybean Association, hosted a trade dinner and reception with CGs and trade representatives from Asia-Pacific countries to learn more about the Illinois Soybean Association, talk with our farmers, discuss additional opportunities to work together and thank our customers for their continued support of our industry.

Making Global Local

by Laura Ortega-Lamela,

Executive Director, International Business Council | Illinois Chamber of Commerce



ORTEGA: MAKING GLOBAL LOCAL

Illinois has one of the most diverse and globalized economies in the United States, ranking 19th in the world in GDP. The newest issue of the Women in International Trade Communique features Laura Ortega, executive director of the International Business Council, and her insight on what it means to make global local.

[View article here.](#)



The Illinois Chamber's policy experts went public to defend the Chamber initiative to prevent the spread of misinformation on the bill.



POLICY EXPERTS DEFEND CHAMBER INITIATIVE, SB 2901

On March 12, the Illinois Chamber's policy experts went public to defend the Chamber initiative to prevent the spread of misinformation on the bill.

"SB 2901 allows all types of audits except for those funded on a contingency basis. That is those audits conducted by an outside firm where the firm is compensated based on how much revenue they can extract from businesses. Contingency firms typically are only compensated by the amount of revenue they identify creating a tremendous incentive that puts businesses at a disadvantage," said Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch in a statement.

[You can view our full statement here.](#)

TAX IMPLICATIONS AND UPDATES

The Tax Institute held a quarterly meeting on March 12 in Chicago at the Chicago offices of Tax Institute member firm True Partners Consulting LLC. Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue Connie Beard was the featured speaker. Director Beard gave an Illinois Department of Revenue update and then, along with Illinois Department of Revenue General Counsel Mark Dyckman, fielded questions from the membership. Keith Staats (*pictured at left*) gave



a legislative update to the membership which included a discussion of the status of the Tax Institute's legislative package and review of pertinent tax legislation, both good and bad, and our legislative advocacy efforts.

Additionally, on March 5, Keith Staats was a featured speaker at a tax reform business roundtable with Congressmen Shimkus, Davis and Bost sponsored by the Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce in Edwardsville, Illinois. Staats discussed the Illinois tax implications of federal tax reform.



ALL IN FOR AMAZON

In March, as Amazon looks for its next location for its second headquarters, the Chamber joined the All in Campaign, a coalition of communities and leaders across Chicago and the state spreading the word that they are "All in for Amazon!". The Illinois Chamber values all kinds of jobs and businesses across various industries and looks forward to continuing the fight for job growth in Illinois.



“

Technology regulations affect both our large and small businesses which is why the Illinois Chamber takes a stand against bills bad for tech and supports bills that would help it.

”



BOARD VIEWS HISTORIC LINCOLN ARTIFACTS

At the Illinois Chamber's board meeting this month at the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum the board was able to view some historic Lincoln artifacts following an important discussion on job creation and economic opportunity.



EVERY BUSINESS IS A TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS

Small businesses make up the most jobs in Illinois and are vital to achieve economic prosperity. Technology regulations affect both our large and small businesses which is why the Illinois Chamber takes a stand against bills bad for tech and supports bills that would help it.

[Read specifics here.](#)





“

reservists from across the country honored their employers to thank them for going above and beyond the legal requirements for service members serving on orders and away from work.

”

Laurie Silvey and Rachael Krekel from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Business Services Division organized and presented during the annual Illinois Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Awards Conference.



MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SERVICE

On March 27 reservists from across the country honored their employers to thank them for going above and beyond the legal requirements for service members serving on orders and away from work. Illinois Chamber members who received awards included Illinois American Water, Baxter International, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Citgo Petroleum Corporation, Country Financial, Curran Contracting, Gensler Architects, and Norfolk Southern. Congratulations to all of the recipients.



SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AWARD

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce was on hand to update the Chicago Southland Chamber on Springfield and helped present the U.S. Chamber's Spirit of Enterprise award to Congressman Adam Kinzinger (pictured at left, center) for his strong support of pro-growth policies.

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of March, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.

ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION

- [Business interests defeat effort in Illinois to slap “impact” fees on warehouse owners](#)
 - [Industry squashes Illinois Logistics Center impact fee bill](#)
- [Why O’Hare needs to grow — and what we can learn from other mega airport expansions](#)
- [Report: Poor roads cost Illinois drivers more than \\$16 billion per year](#)
 - [Report: Poor roads cost Illinois drivers \\$16.4 billion a year](#)
 - [Study calculates cost of bad roads](#)
 - [Ill. loses \\$16.4 billion a year because of poor roads, traffic jams, report says](#)
 - [Bad Roads: the price of neglect](#)
 - [Full media coverage here](#)
- [Morning Spin: Key parts of Mayor Emanuel’s \\$8.5B O’Hare expansion project before City Council today](#)

ILLINOIS CHAMBER INITIATIVE SB 2901

- [Illinois Treasurer Opposes Bill to Limit Audit Authority](#)
 - [Treasurer Frerichs opposes bill that would limit audit authority - State Journal-Register](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority- Tribune Star](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - Southern Illinoisan](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - SF Gate](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - Miami Herald](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - Pantagraph](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - Journal Star](#)
 - [Illinois treasurer opposes bill to limit audit authority - The Seattle Times](#)
 - [Treasurer Frerichs opposes bill that would limit audit authority - Journal Gazette & Times-Courier](#)
 - [Treasurer Frerichs opposes bill that would limit audit authority - Herald & Review](#)
- [Legislation would block audits which have save taxpayers millions](#)
- [Dueling press releases](#)
- [Frerichs warns of harm to Unclaimed Property](#)

(More Next Page)

CHAMBER ADVOCACY



IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Business Every Month

In the month of March, we spoke to radio, television, and print media outlets, delivering pro-business values to audiences across Illinois. Below is a selection of stories where the Chamber has advocated its position on a variety of topics.

ILLINOIS ECONOMY

- [Chamber leader: Illinois needs to get out of its own way to thrive](#)
- [10 years later, statewide smoking ban is part of everyday life](#)
 - [After 10 years, Illinois smoking ban part of everyday life – Peoria Journal Star](#)
 - [After 10 years, Illinois smoking ban part of everyday life – Pekin Daily Times](#)
 - [Illinois smoking ban part of everyday life 10 years later – Daily Herald](#)
 - [Ten years Later: Illinois smoking ban part of everyday life - WLS](#)
- [Illinois Loses Out as Companies Move Out](#)
- [More ‘business friendly’ state a focus for state rep candidates](#)
- [Illinois looks to bring economic development back to the state](#)
- [New Transparency Bill Faces Strong Opposition](#)
- [New Bill To Increase Gym Fee Cap](#)

ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY

- [Defending Technology Innovation](#)

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

- [Making Global Local](#)

OTHER CHAMBER NEWS

- [Illinois Chamber of Commerce endorses Andrew Chesney](#)
- [Bryant survives GOP primary challenge in House District 115](#)
- [Madigan warns House members to keep it ‘strictly professional’](#)
 - [Madigan warns House members to keep it ‘strictly professional’](#)
- [Life After The Chicago Bears: Ex-Players Have Collected \\$13M In Workers’ Comp Since 2000](#)
- [Harassment in the workplace session planned](#)
 - [Harassed? Chambers Plan Seminar For Business Leaders](#)